



FREEDOM WATCH



June 20, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

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Top al Qaeda leader snared

WASHINGTON — A senior al Qaeda leader known as “The Bear” because of his large size is in custody in Morocco, accused of plotting with other al Qaeda terrorists there to blow up U.S. and British warships in the Strait of Gibraltar, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

Strike threatens airline travel

PARIS, France — A one-day strike by air traffic controllers is causing chaos for airline travelers in Europe. The strike is in protest to a plan for a continent-wide “single-sky” plan intended to reduce congestion and delays.

See **BRIEFS**, Page 2

Operation Mountain Lion continues

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. and coalition forces’ continued Operation Mountain Lion patrols in Afghanistan and have reaped “hundreds of thousands” of munitions in recent weeks, Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard Myers said Tuesday.

Myers and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld spoke to Penta-

gon reporters this morning. Myers said several large caches of confiscated weapons have included large numbers of rocket-propelled grenades and launchers, small arms and small-arms rounds, grenades and mortars.

The chairman also noted the first battalion of the Afghan national army, being trained by U.S. and other coalition forces, is nearing the mid-point of its training

cycle and that a second battalion is now beginning training.

Rumsfeld briefly described his overseas tour last week through Europe, the Middle East and South Asia. “Clearly there is broad understanding of the terrorist threats,” he said of the countries he visited. “Many of those countries have experienced those threats.”

See **MYERS**, Page 2

Sept. 11 survivor graduates from tech school

By G.W. Pomeroy
*Air Force Surgeon General
Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON — Airman Amy Ting, an international film star who survived the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center towers, became an official member of the Air Force Medical Service recently when she graduated from the physical training apprentice course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

A movie could be made about the many changes Ting’s life has gone through since Sept. 11. The possibility has not been ruled out.

Once she reports to Dover AFB, Del., in late June, she will begin to settle in for the day-to-day existence of what she has described as “an honorable role.”

“I used to think that I wouldn’t die for anybody,” Ting said on graduation day.

“There is nothing more worthy than serving my country.”

Such commitment, brought forth from harrowing disaster, was apparent by Ting’s performance. From the moment she arrived at basic training she has not been just “talking the talk,” she has been “walking the walk.” Or, in tech school vernacular, she has been “cracking the books,” graduating with a 93 grade point average.

Because of her celebrity status, Ting was not a typical student. Since joining the Air Force she has been featured by numerous local, regional and national media organizations including The New York Times and Fox News. She was interviewed during a live segment on NBC’s “Today Show”



Air Force photo by T.R. Steele
Airman Amy Ting waits for her live satellite interview with NBC’s “Today Show” shortly after arriving at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

shortly after arriving at Sheppard for tech school.

“We were leery about the exposure

being distracting,” said Tech. Sgt. Jason Foster, an instructor-supervisor at the physical therapy training course. “But it

See **SURVIVOR**, Page 2

MYERS, from Page 1

Just days after his visit to Pakistan, Rumsfeld praised Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf for his willingness to root out al Qaeda terrorists from his country. Rumsfeld noted that Pakistan had moved two more companies of troops to its border with Afghanistan.

He said it's clear the Pakistanis understand the border is porous and that Taliban and al Qaeda crossed over. It's also clear Musharraf doesn't want Taliban and al Qaeda members milling around, and he's demonstrated that by rounding them up whenever they're found, Rumsfeld said.

The secretary said the high point of his trip was meeting with U.S. and coalition forces in Germany, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar.

"Our troops are ready. They're enthusiastic and they're dedicated," Rumsfeld said.

"We are indeed fortunate to have such truly outstanding young men and women voluntarily stepping forward to serve our country."

Rumsfeld and Myers both expressed their condolences to the families and friends of the two airmen and one soldier who were killed in an MC-130 plane crash in Afghanistan June 12.

"These service members served with honor so that our country can be free," Rumsfeld said.

"Clearly, our hearts and our thoughts go out to those families and friends," Myers added.

WWII hero receives posthumous award

By Jim Bolton

Fort Lee Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. — World War II veteran Maj. Carter S. Vaden's family received a posthumous Bronze Star in his honor at Fort Lee's observance of the Army Birthday June 14.

The medal, with a "V" device for valor, honored the Virginia Military Institute graduate for his service in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater in March 1944.

The medal citation describes how Vaden prevented an ambush by identifying and attacking a well-camouflaged enemy entrenchment.

Hauwei Island was thought to be unoccupied when Vaden's reconnaissance platoon landed on the island.

The platoon's mission was, "to select suitable sites to emplace field artillery to support the upcoming invasion of the Island of Manus," cited historic

documents.

One hundred-and-twenty yards inland, Vaden paused, turned to his lieutenant and said, "We're going to be killed."

The lieutenant responded, "Yes sir, we are."

They immediately resumed firing.

Vaden threw two hand grenades into the enemy position, with machine gun, rifle and mortar fire opened up from three sides.

The grenades sprung the ambush prematurely, but Vaden was killed.

Six men in the reconnaissance unit and two artillerymen, including Vaden, were killed.

Vaden's award citation reads: "His complete disregard for his personal safety and valor in response to enemy aggression were in the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 99th Field

Artillery Battalion and the U.S. Army."

"It is with the deepest feeling that I write you of Carter's death," said Lt. Col. Johnny Johnson, in a letter to Vaden's wife, Elizabeth, in 1944. "We had been in action for about 10 days and through a lot. I have never known a finer man in all my life and regarded him as my best friend. He died fighting; when last seen he was throwing a hand grenade."

Commissioned in 1941, Vaden received numerous awards and citations, including the Purple Heart, American Defense and Asiatic-Pacific medals, WWII Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

His daughter, Elizabeth Vaden Reid, three grandchildren and six great grandchildren, survive him.

Vaden's remains, along with those of 76 of his comrades, are interred in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, Mo.

SURVIVOR, from Page 1

never came close to being considered a problem. She wouldn't let it. She refused to be treated differently than anyone else."

The Air Force assignment system did not grant her any special status, either. Until the day she graduated, Ting thought she was going to MacDill AFB, Fla. She was diverted to Dover on graduation day.

"People started telling me I was being diverted," she said. "I got nervous because I didn't know what that meant (in Air Force speak)."

Ting's determination to be a good airman and student paid off with tangible results. Foster said her leadership skills earned her the yellow rope on her shoulder that signified she was a leader.

"She was also very easy to get along with," Foster said.

"I just loved the class and serving patients," Ting said. "And I am looking forward to settling in at Dover."

Now that she has graduated from tech school and is heading for her first duty station, she also has a very normal wish: "I hope I get a good boss."

(Airman 1st Class Amanda Currier contributed to this report.)

News briefs

BRIEFS, from Page 1

EU fights US steel tariffs

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Commission has stepped up its fight against steel tariffs, saying it will slap sanctions on the U.S. if the World Trade Organization fails to settle the dispute with Washington.

English email policy pulled

LONDON, England — The British government said Tuesday it was withdrawing a heavily criticized plan to give more bureaucrats and local authorities the power to monitor private e-mail and mobile telephone records.

US combats counterfeit drugs

WASHINGTON — Once a problem mainly in developing countries, counterfeit medicine is increasingly turning up in the United States, prompting federal health officials to hunt new ways to keep the nation's drugs secure.

HIND SIGHT

1819

Savannah becomes 1st steamship to cross any ocean (Atlantic)

1837

England issues its 1st stamp, 1P Queen Victoria

1837

Queen Victoria, at 18, ascends the British throne following the death of uncle King William IV Ruled for 63 years ending in 1901

1939

Test flight of 1st rocket plane using liquid propellants

1968

Jim Hines becomes 1st person to run 100 meters in under 10 seconds



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Sonny Cohrs

Microwave cooking

Staff Sgt. Jose Castellanos, a tech controller deployed here from the 43rd Communications Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., uses a laptop to configure the microwave module and microwave radio set at a deployed location in Southwest Asia. The microwave system is used to wirelessly transfer data and voice capabilities to a nearby tent city.

The Kabul Dining Facility hours are 0200 - 0330 (Z), and 1300 - 1415 (Z)

Local weather

TWO-DAY AFGHANISTAN WEATHER REPORT:

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>Bagram:</u>	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
	H: 99F	H: 99F
	L: 63F	L: 63F
<u>Kandahar:</u>	Haze	Haze
	H: 106F	H: 108F
	L: 73F	L: 75F
<u>Khowst:</u>	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy
	H: 100F	H: 102F
	L: 68F	L: 66F

Weather courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

Legendary broadcaster dies

Jack Buck, who, in nearly five decades behind the mike, became a St. Louis institution, died late Tuesday night. He was 77.

One of his most memorable calls came in Game One of the 1988 World Series when a hobbled Kirk Gibson belted a homerun to win it for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"Gibson swings, and a fly ball to deep right. This is going to be a homerun! Unbelievable!"

A homerun for Gibson! And the Dodgers have won the game, 5-4! I don't believe what I just saw."

Navratilova returns to win match

In her first singles match since 1994, Martina Navratilova beat Tatiana Panova of Russia 6-1, 4-6, 6-2. The victory made her the oldest woman ever to win a WTA match. Navratilova, a nine-time Wimbledon champion, is 45. Panova is 25.

Castillo extends hit streak to 32

Luis Castillo extended the longest hitting streak in 15 years by doubling in the third inning. The major league record is 56, which is held by Joe DiMaggio in 1941.

MLB longest hitting streaks

1. Joe DiMaggio, 56 games, 1941
2. Willie Keeler, 44, 1897
2. Pete Rose, 44, 1987
4. Bill Dahlen, 42, 1894
5. George Sisler, 41, 1922
6. Ty Cobb, 40, 1911
7. Paul Molitor, 39, 1987
8. Tommy Holmes, 37, 1945
9. Billy Hamilton, 36, 1894
10. Fred Clarke, 35, 1895
10. Ty Cobb, 35, 1914
12. George Sisler, 34, 1925
12. George McQuinn, 34, 1938
12. Dom DiMaggio, 34, 1949
12. Benito Santiago, 34, 1987
16. George Davis, 33, 1893
- 20. Luis Castillo, 32, 2002(active)**

2002 World Cup First Round Standings

Group A

x-Denmark	2-0-1	7
y-Senegal	1-0-2	5
Uruguay	0-1-2	2
France	0-2-1	1

Group B

x-Spain	3-0-0	9
y-Paraguay	1-1-1	4
South Africa	1-1-1	4
Slovenia	0-3-0	0

Group C

x-Brazil	3-0-0	9
y-Turkey	1-1-1	4
Costa Rica	1-1-1	4
China	0-3-0	0

Group D

x-South Korea	2-0-1	7
y-United States	1-1-1	4
Portugal	1-2-0	3
Poland	1-2-0	3

Group E

x-Germany	2-0-1	7
y-Ireland	1-0-2	5
Cameroon	1-1-1	4
Saudi Arabia	0-3-0	0

Group F

x-Sweden	1-0-2	5
y-England	1-0-2	5
Argentina	1-1-1	4
Nigeria	0-2-1	1

Group G

x-Mexico	2-0-1	7
y-Italy	1-1-1	4
Croatia	1-2-0	3
Ecuador	1-2-0	3

Group H

x-Japan	2-0-1	7
y-Belgium	1-0-2	5
Russia	1-2-0	3
Tunisia	0-2-1	1

World Cup second round schedule

Germany 1-0 Paraguay
 England 3-0 Denmark
 Senegal 2-1, OT, Sweden
 Spain 1-1 Ireland (Spain advances 3-2 PKs)
 United States 2-0 Mexico
 Brazil 2-0 Belgium
 Turkey 1-0 Japan
 South Korea 2-1, OT, Italy

World Cup quarterfinals

Friday — Germany v. United States
 Friday — England v. Brazil
 Saturday — Senegal v. Turkey
 Saturday — Spain v. South Korea

World Cup semifinals

June 25 — Quarter 1 v. Quarter 4
 June 26 — Quarter 2 v. Quarter 3

World Cup Final @ Yokohama, Japan

June 30 — Semifinal winners